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TAGS: OPRC KMDR TU
SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS
Denktas Decides Not to Join Four-Party Talks - Milliyet
Massacre in Baghdad -- 28 Dead, 45 Injured - Milliyet
Jordan King Abdullah Asked to Fight Fundamentalism -
Hurriyet
Bomb Attack Commemorates First Anniversary of Iraq War -
Sabah
Denktas Declines to Attend the Second Round of Talks - Sabah
Suicide Attack in Iraq - Turkiye
General Myers Promises to Deal With the PKK - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS
YOK Withdraws From Education Reform Discussions - Cumhuriyet
PKK Guarantee From Myers - Radikal
Jordan King Promises Free Trade - Yeni Safak
King Abdullah: "We Have to Prove to Radicals That This is
Not Islam" - Zaman

BRIEFING

Cyprus: All papers report that Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas announced that he will not participate in the four-party talks in Switzerland. 'TRNC Prime Minister' Talat will stand in for him. Denktas said that he is not hopeful of seeing an agreement come out of the talks. Denktas said that if he had gone to Zurich, people would have thought that everything was progressing smoothly. "Radikal" says the Turkish Government heard of Denktas' decision from the media, and that PM Erdogan was annoyed by the surprise announcement. After the four-party talks in Zurich, Annan is expected to fill in the remaining blanks in the Cyprus agreement.

YOK Withdraws From Education Reform Talks: "Cumhuriyet" reports that Turkish Higher Education Board (YOK) officials have withdrawn from education reform discussions. The paper speculated that the decision was motivated by the AKP government's determination to expand educational privileges for theology school students.

General Myers on the PKK: Most papers and TV channels covered comments by US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman, General Richard Myers, concerning the US commitment to eliminate the threat posed by the PKK. At a press conference, General Myers was asked whether the US would take action against the PKK. Myers responded that Turkey and the US are holding discussions on the issue at the political and military level in order to decide on an appropriate course of action against the PKK.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Campaign Against Terrorism/Spain/NATO

"Is NATO Diminishing?"
Zeynep Atikkan observed in the mass appeal-sensational Aksam (3/18): "The upcoming NATO summit is in fact going to shape the alliance's role for the future. The nature of new missions, which NATO might be undertaking, will largely depend on the developments in Iraq. The Greater Middle East initiative will be brought up to the G-8 summit first, and later the US will bring it to NATO. The US will most likely

center its argument around whether NATO should be actively engaged in the region's democratization and stabilization process, unless the alliance wants to retire. . Bush administration hopes to charge NATO with new tasks, particularly on Iraq, prior to the presidential elections. The Istanbul summit will provide a venue for the exchange of ideas and perceptions between 'old Europe' and the 'new Europe' about the role of NATO in 21st century. Rumsfeld underlined the importance of a single NATO while acknowledging the existence of Europe in two categories, the old and the new Europe. There is no way to make two NATOs, therefore the Istanbul summit either will come up with a revitalization, or the retirement of NATO."

"Terror and making a choice"

Hadi Uluengin asserted in the mass appeal Huriyet (3/18): "The elections in Spain provided a tactical victory for terrorism. This statement comes from former Secretary of State James Rubin, and is absolutely a reflection of the truth. . Let's be honest about the situation. Islamic fundamentalists carried out an act of punishment and they achieved two goals. The government in Spain lost and terrorism affected democracy to the benefit of the terrorists. This means that terror has become a 'player' in the international politics. These are all very critical developments and providing a tactical victory for terrorism will bring very serious consequences. . The situation is as clear as black and white. We all have to make a clear choice between 'life' and 'death.' Otherwise, tactical victory gradually becomes a strategic victory and that is a defeat of humanity."

EDELMAN